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BOOK NOTICES.

La Grande Route du Tchad. Par le Commandant E. A. Lenfant.

xv and 288 pp., numerous half-tone Illustrations, a Map and 3 Appendices. Librairie Hachette & Co., Paris, 1905. (Price, 12 fr.)

Lenfant is still a young man, but he has accomplished everything he has tried to do in Africa. Early in 1903 he unfolded his idea that France might utilize a practically all-water route between the mouth of the Niger and Lake Chad, along streams in the Niger and Shari River basins, and that this route would afford the shortest and cheapest connections with the French Central Sudan. The mission to investigate the matter found favour in France, and Lenfant was soon on his way to Africa. The *BULLETIN* (1905, pp. 429-30) recorded the brilliant success that won for him a gold medal of the Paris Geographical Society.

The present book, beautifully produced by Hachette, is Commandant Lenfant's story of this eventful journey. It contains much fresh information about the regions traversed and the tribes. The illustrations have probably not been equalled in any other work relating to the Central Sudan. The author sums up the results of his many-sided studies, and in the Appendices are notes on the Fulani, a description by Mr. Lahure of his exciting side-trip to the Lake country, and the tabulated meteorological observations of the expedition.

Wirtschaftsgeographie von Niederländisch Ost-Indien. Von Professor Albrecht von Bockelmann. 88 pp. (Angewandte Geographie, Series 2, No. 2.) Gebauer-Schwetschke, Druckerei und Verlag. Halle a. S., 1904. (Price, M. 1.80.)

A fine example of applied geography. The book opens with twenty pages relating to the larger natural conditions throughout the Dutch East Indies; area, 58 times as great as that of the mother country; population, 4.8 times as large; large islands very mountainous; flat lands chiefly confined to a few small islands; rich soil the result of disintegrated volcanic rock; temperatures, plant and animal life, and distribution of races, native and foreign; Mohammedan religion most important and widely disseminated, and its adherents not so fanatical as in many other lands.

The so-called coast Malayan is the language of trade, having the same relation to business in the Dutch Indies that pidgeon English holds in West and ki-Suaheli in East Africa. Europeans learn it in about two months, and a large admixture of Dutch, English, and Portuguese expressions makes it easier to acquire. The state of education and all other conditions that affect trade are discussed.

Each of the seven island groups is then separately treated in every aspect that relates to commerce. The monograph is a model of compact statement and logical arrangement.

In Famine Land. Observations and Experiences in India during the Great Drought of 1899-1900. By Rev. J. E. Scott. xl and 206 pp., 35 half-tone Illustrations, a Map and Index. Harper & Brothers, New York and London, 1904. (Price, \$2.50.)

Dr. Scott, who has spent most of his life in India, was prominent in the relief work during the great famine. His book records many phases of the social and physical life of the people and the conditions under which they live, as well as details